

**TOP SECRET**  
Security Information

3 April 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: ASSISTANT CHIEF, POLITICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE

SUBJECT: Comments on PSB D-40: PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLOITATION  
OF STALIN'S DEATH

1. The most serious criticism to make is that a paper of this sort tends to be out-dated by events. In this particular case subsequent events may invalidate some of the assumptions upon which the paper is based. For example, the present careful orchestration of Soviet "peace" maneuvers raises some question as to the assumed "condition of nervousness following the sudden transfer of power" (page 10, 5f (1)(3)).

2. By the same token, the explicit and implicit assumption underlying the entire paper, to the effect that the United States possesses the initiative, tends to be vitiated by recent developments in Soviet policy. It is technically true, as a White House spokesman recently stated, that the Soviet Union is now only reacting to proposals which the United States has made at earlier periods. It is also true, however, that the recent carefully coordinated set of Soviet responses creates a wholly new situation at the present time. The authors of the paper could not have been expected to foresee this development, much less to prepare a general plan of action designed to cope with it.

3. Apart from this major criticism, which is not directed against the authors of the paper, but merely underlines the inherent limitations of any effort to forecast the future, it would be out of place to criticize any particular details. The general "strategic concept" appears to be fundamentally sound, and the plan for "covert operations" is likewise based on sound principles, specifically by emphasizing inducement of defections and the sowing of confusion and uncertainty in the ranks of the Communist parties. This section is very properly brief (scarcely over 1 page) and appropriately limited merely to a general statement of principles. The much longer section on "overt information operations" is not properly within the jurisdiction of this office to discuss.

/s/   
C/WE

25X1A

25X1A Distribution:

Copy 1 & 2 - addressees

3 -

4 - DC/PY

5 - WE/PP

6 - RI

**TOP SECRET**  
Security Information

87632/1

COPIES 4 6

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2003/06/03 : CIA-RDP80-01065A000300040045  
**SIGNATURE RECORD AND COMMENT SHEET**

For the Intraoffice Use of OSO and OPC Only—as a Cover Attachment to Form No. 38-13

NOTICE

Detaching Form No. 38-13 for the purpose of securing this form to top secret documents is prohibited.

**ATTENTION.**—Access to top secret material is limited to those individuals whose official duties relate to the material. Each alternate or assistant top secret control officer who receives and/or releases the attached top secret material will sign this form and indicate period of custody in columns provided. Each individual who sees this top secret document will enter date of handling and sign his full name in the proper columns. Officer designations should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should sign full name before further routing.

FROM:

C/WS

CONTROL NO.

87632/1

TO—	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S FULL NAME	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. TSCO		AS 1953	AS 1953		25X1A
2. Py/Geo DE/Py		1 AM	9 AM	PBB	DE FYT
3. De/Py			9 April		
4.					
25X1A				25X1A	file
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					
11.					
12.					
13.					
14.					
15.					

Approved For Release 2003/06/03 : CIA-RDP80-01065A000300040045

FORM NO. 38-13A  
JUN 1949

TOP SECRET

GPO 16-61700-1

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO REGISTRY

TOP SECRET